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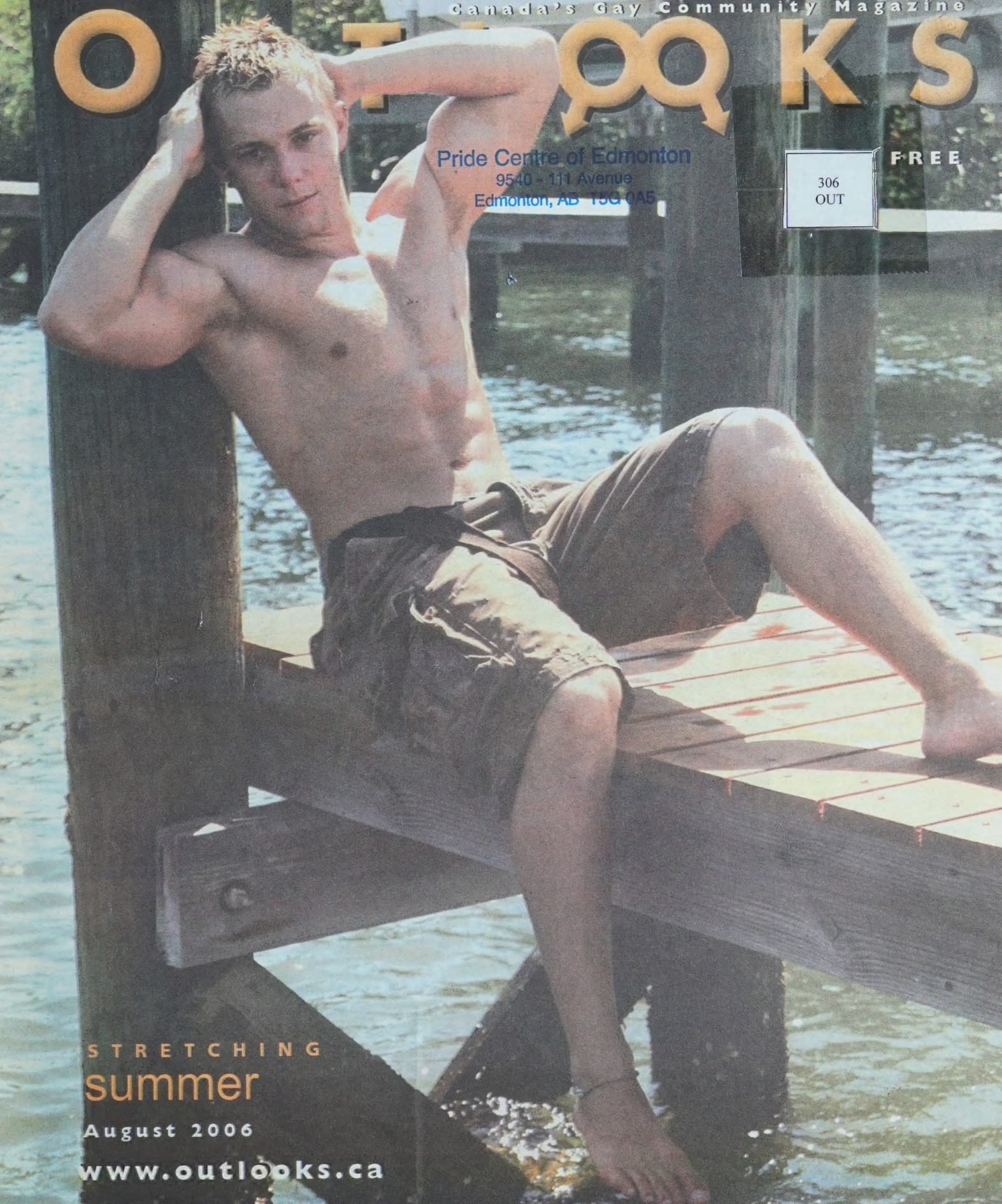

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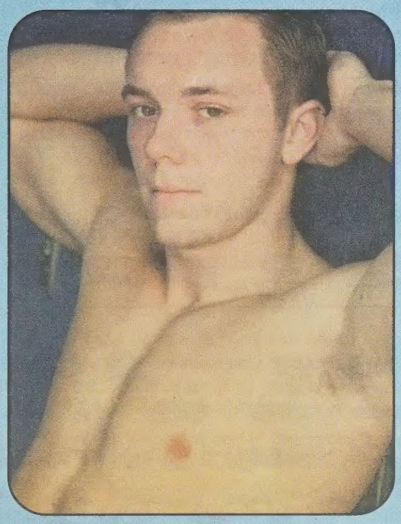

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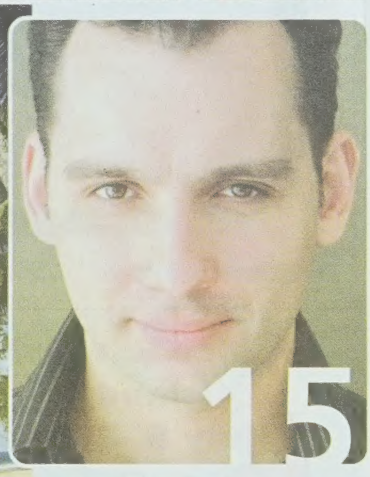
editorial 5
framed 16
arts 18
don t you wish? 19
horoscope 28
classifieds 36

what's where

summertime BBQ 24

OAHU BECKONS 20

Don't pack away your swimsuit and beach body yet. With summer coming to a close in Canada, it's the perfect time to start planning for an autumn or winter getaway and there's no place on earth like Hawai...



15

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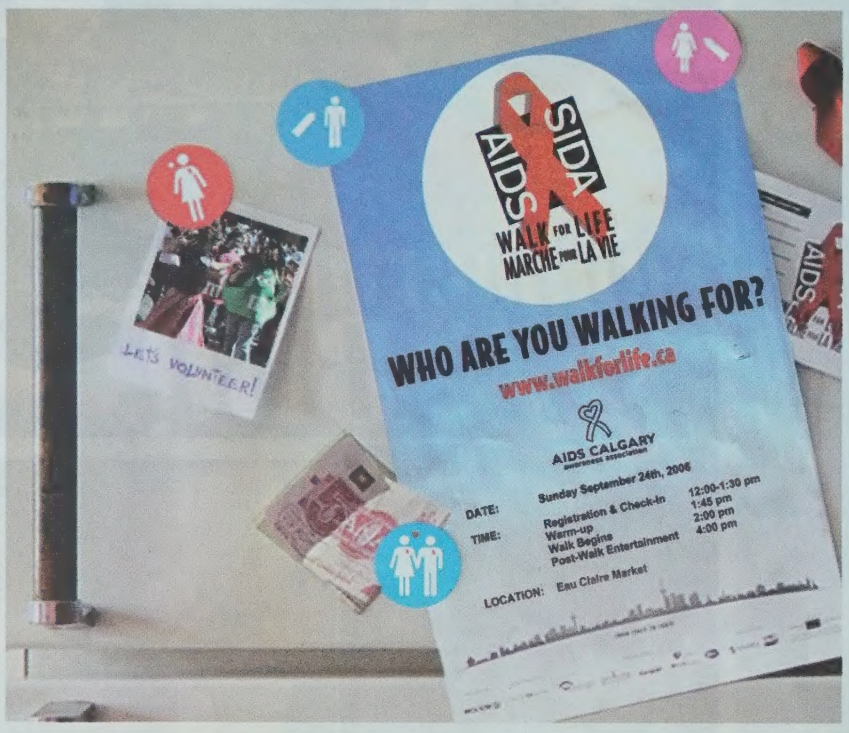

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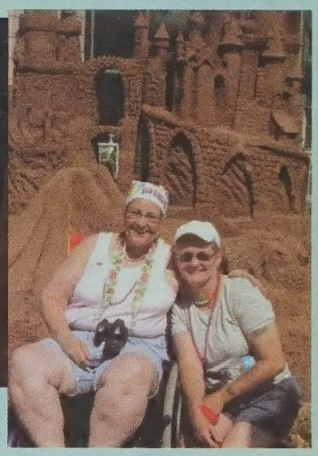

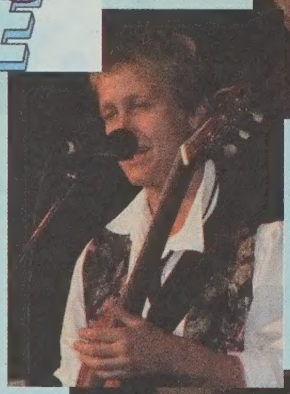

Photos By Jim Culbert

Stevie's Nightmare

By John Coulbourn

It occurred to me the other day that before George Bush's new best friend, Stevie, asks the Canadian Parliament to re-open the debate on same sex marriage, he might want to take a stroll down pretty well any street in downtown Toronto.

And no, I'm not talking about cruising, either—just a nice little stroll would be all it would take.

In fact, I was out on a stroll when the notion hit.

It was a rare day off, and my husband and I (still love the sound of that, even after two years) were off on some now-forgotten errand, enjoying the sun, the heat, the togetherness and the burgeoning gardens in our once-blue-collar neighbourhood.

One particular yard caught our eye, the work so new it was still in progress—and while we watched the 'man of the house' at his labours, the other 'man of the house'—clearly just out of the shower and enjoying a glass of wine—called to him from the front door.

We smiled at each other and moved on—but it got me thinking nonetheless about the fact that I seem to be noticing a lot more gays on the street these days.

And no, as someone whose gaydar has never functioned more than about ten per-cent of the time, I'm not talking about 'that' kind of noticing—at least not exclusively.

Instead, what I'm seeing are gays (and lesbians), singly and in pairs, who are simply getting on, not with getting it on, but rather with simply getting on, happily unconcerned finally that they might inadvertently slip and do something that might allow Sam and Sally Suburbia to read them and cover them with contempt.

The more I thought about it, the more I realized that this was a phenom that can be traced back to the legalization of same-sex marriage.

I am not, I hasten to add, suggesting that all the gays and lesbians I've been noticing are married—or even that any of them might be.

But there is no denying that for many Canadians, gay and straight, that single and singular change in matrimonial laws signalled a new era, recognizing as it did our rights (and obligations) as full members of the Canadian community.

And with that recognition, a lot of us—gay and straight alike—have learned, I think, to relax a bit and let our guards down.

Where 'being ourselves' was once something the majority of the gay community reserved for the privacy of our own homes and places catering to 'people like us,' it is now something we feel comfortable doing while we shop for groceries, ride the streetcars, do our gardening or just stroll.

Yes, there are still those who will disapprove, but happily, polls show that they are in an ever shrinking minority. For the vast majority of Canadians, the issue is so beyond settled and it is now time to move on to more important things like wait times in the health care system.

When you stop to think about it, Harper's worst nightmare must be that Parliament will indeed force him to wade into this again. Imagine trying to convince the good citizens of Quebec that your's is not a party of right-wing knuckle-draggers and give you the majority you so desperately crave with a hot potato like this hanging in the balance.

And rest assured that if Harper and his cronies do decide to revisit it all, there will be no quick resolution—and he'll have no one to blame but himself.

The other day, we were out for a bike-ride and stopped at one of the pubs in our transitioning neighbourhood for a cold one. On the way out, we ran into an acquaintance and stopped to chat. It wasn't until we were back on our bikes and headed homeward that it dawned on me that I had, without even thinking or lowering my voice, introduced "my husband" to my friend—and no one in the entire bar had looked askance.

That says volumes about how much I've changed but it says even more about how much Toronto has changed. Ignore it at your peril, Steve. ▼

John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.

OUTLOOKS

ESTABLISHED 1997

Publisher ..... Roy Heale
Copy Editor ..... Michael Wright
Sales Executive ..... Cap Peters
Graphics ..... Digital Avatar and Karin Karlsson
Toronto Sales ..... Michael Wile
Webmaster ..... Tyler Cranston
Proofing ..... Colleen Hanna

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Distribution ..... DLRJ Enterprises Ltd., Calgary
..... Hawk Man & Van, Toronto
..... S*A*R*G*E Distribution, Edmonton

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Outlooks is a proud member of the Canadian GLBT Publishers Association

Outlooks is published 12 times yearly. Please send submissions or queries to the mailing address listed above. The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the staff. *Outlooks* is not responsible for unsolicited work or photographic materials. All material contained herein is the property of *Outlooks* and may not be used without express written consent of the publisher or editor.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Magazine Fund toward our editorial costs.

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ISSN 1704-7927
National Library of Canada
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Queer History Recorded

By Peter Carlyle-Gordge

They say that history is written by the victors, so it's important that queer people—long downtrodden—record their own history if posterity is to have a balanced view of how things really were.

Indeed recording queer history is becoming more important with each legal advance, since it's vital that the world not forget how bad things used to be for the GLBT community. Those who ignore history are often doomed to repeat it.

An organization of GLBT historians, educators and art authorities is working with a British government agency to set up a museum of gay history and culture. Proud Heritage is contacting museums across the UK asking that they examine their collections—and in many cases reassess them—to help create a gay database.

Winnipeg is planning a massive Museum of Human Rights, a pet project of the late CanWest founder Izzy Asper, and it's likely the struggles of the gay community will have a place in it.

Written history is also vitally important. Starting this August, Winnipeg librarian Ryan Schultz will be taking a seven-month sabbatical from his job at the University of Manitoba. His intention is to start a book on the history of the GLBT community in Winnipeg and Manitoba since the 1940s. His book will be the first of its kind in Manitoba.

Schultz, 42, is reference librarian at the Sciences and Technology Library at the University of Manitoba. He played a major role in establishing its databases. He is also custodian of the Manitoba GLBT archives, having taken them over from the Rainbow Resource Centre once it ran out of space for such a bulging collection.

The GLBT archive—which includes minutes and records of early social clubs and attempts at getting social and legal recognition—occupies about 150 boxes and is currently stored in a garage. Included are taped interviews with many old-timers who remember the gay scene when it was still illegal.

"I had an ulterior motive in volunteering to take over the archives because I thought one day I might do a book on the community's history," says Schultz. "In fact I would eventually like the collection to become part of the university's archives and special collections. Scholars and other researchers will then be able to access them all and they'll be professionally treated."

Ryan Schultz

Some years ago he began a project called *Rainbow Lives*, a website listing the famous, good and great from the GLBT community. Included were people from both past and present. Over two years he gathered over 4,000 names with potted biographical sketches, but the project was eventually ended when it grew too big. He says he began it as a hobby but the database grew and grew and it began to demand too much time.

During his seven-month sabbatical, he plans to go through the archives and start mapping out various chapters. He also plans to conduct in-person interviews with people in Vancouver, Toronto and other major centres, noting that many gay Winnipeggers upped stakes and moved to larger cities to find a freer gay life.

He is particularly interested in hearing from Bill Munroe who moved to Vancouver and was active in the drag scene. He would also like to get in contact with Robin Tyler, also formerly of Winnipeg.

Schultz says his main challenge isn't finding stories, but organizing masses of material in a logical, readable way. "I think a book of our history is important," he says. "I am especially interested in helping people both gay and straight understand how things really were before homosexuality was decriminalized and before we overcame so many legal barriers."

He says there will be sad stories and funny stories. Rifling through a box of old minutes recently, he was amused to read that an early organizing group had approached the province for a liquor license for GLBT socials. "It more or less said that a liquor license was possible, but only on condition the group didn't say who they really were," he laughs. That was Winnipeg's version of don't tell and we won't ask.

"Research into the GLBT history of other larger centres such as Vancouver and Toronto has been done but we have been ignored in Manitoba," he says. "Hopefully this book will help fill that gap in local history."

When not surrounded by books and archives, Schultz likes to write fiction in a genre known as slash fiction. "It's an Internet subculture and most of it is written by middle aged women for some reason," he says. "It's a creative outlet and usually involves two characters such as two males engaged in some kind of same-sex relationship."

He is a co-founder of the local Out There GLBT sports and recreation group. He also co-founded ACE, a GLBT Arts, Culture and Entertainment group. On top of that, he also sings in the Rainbow Harmony Project, the GLBT choir.

Anyone outside Manitoba who wants to tell their story of early gay life in the province can contact him by calling 204.269.1637 or by emailing: ryanschultz@gmail.com ▼

Peter Carlyle-Gordge is a former Manitoba correspondent for Maclean's *and* The Financial Post. *He has written for most major magazines and newspapers in Canada as well as broadcasting on the national and international networks of CBC Radio. As honorary press secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba in the 1980s, Peter was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for services to Canada in 2003.*

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Downshifting Down East

By Ralph Higgins

In many parts of the world it's known as downshifting, a movement away from consumerism and towards a simpler country lifestyle. Increasingly, people have noted that the pursuit of the dollar has been at the expense of happiness and well being; proponents use phrases like *voluntary simplicity* or *slow down* and *green up* as they describe their relinquishing of the "compulsion for material products". The focus is now on sustainability and a more relaxed approach to life through gardening, cooking, raising chickens and a resurgence of crafts like weaving and winemaking. For two Brits, named AJ and Matt, this quest for a more satisfying and natural life has led them to cross the Atlantic Ocean to settle on Canada's east coast.

AJ (Left) & Matt

AJ and Matt have recently left the city of Leeds, in the United Kingdom and moved to a farm house in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley, a lush green area along the Bay of Fundy, known for its farm produce and many apple orchards. The decision to uproot and replant themselves on Canadian soil is the result of a thinking process that began several years ago. AJ relates how his daily bus trip home—surrounded by cement and brick while he longed for grassy countryside—confirmed his need to make a change in his life. He describes with bitter humour a typical city bus: "sitting next to me we have a sniffing, coughing woman playing her MP3 player so loudly that I could hear it above mine, sitting behind we have a bunch of loud, smoking, chavvy kids whom no one dares challenge. No one makes eye contact, no one talks and I really truly yearn to run away from it all."

His partner, Matt, came to downshifting later but is no less enthusiastic about making the change. In his own words, he is "quite a methodical person", and it was he who suggested a journey to Nova Scotia in 2005 to get a sense of the province, a trial run to discover how they would feel about actually moving here.

After much exploration, they settled on the Annapolis Valley as the area most suited to their needs and personalities. AJ was surprised at how immediately he felt at home and didn't want to leave. Returning to England, they began tackling the seemingly endless tasks: leaving jobs, selling their house, packing, beginning all the legal paperwork, saying good-bye to colleagues, family and friends. Although they are seeking a simplified country life, they are not averse to using modern technology to accomplish their goals. Both Matt and AJ are computer savvy and have been running a website (**downshiftme.com**) which has kept a log of activities as well as recording their thoughts about the whole undertaking.

In June 2006, they returned to Nova Scotia to do the final selection of a house. Undeterred by a week of steady rain, they quickly narrowed down their search to two possibilities which they dubbed the *heart* versus the *head* houses. The "head" house is in great shape, needs little or no work but is a bit spartan in atmosphere. The "heart" house is situated on the side of the mountain, needs considerable work, "pushes our budget a bit" but has loads of charm, a brook and a waterfall. Of course, the "heart" house won out.

Back to the UK to complete the final details and one final ceremony—getting married!

"We decided that we wanted to marry on our fifteenth anniversary." says AJ " And, as we only got the legal right to do so in 2005, we decided to do it before we came to NS. Legally, it does make things easier for us as a 'married' couple."

AJ, originally from the Isle of Man, and Matt, from Suffolk, first met at a student conference in Blackpool. Matt was attending the university in Leeds and as AJ succinctly puts it, "We fell in love. I moved to be with him." Now, a decade and a half later, they will again follow their hearts across the ocean to begin the next chapter of their life together.

So why Canada? Why Nova Scotia? "Ah, the $24,000 (CDN) question!" laughs AJ. "Well Matt's sister lives in Toronto—that helped influence us. Canada seems so very relaxed about life, open to so many different types of people. The UK is a crowded expensive island and we wanted to have more space, couldn't afford to do it in the UK. We have watched Canadian politics very closely and even your Conservatives seem pretty much liberal in attitude towards us guys."

Double Decker Bus Ride

"Nova Scotia is smaller, feels more comfortable. We also have friends here in Mahone Bay. Everyone is so very very friendly here and accepting, no one has been freaked by our relationship, everyone has been very welcoming." For AJ it also recalls his early home on the Isle of Man and a childhood, which he describes as idyllic. "It was very rural and very, very peaceful. Nova Scotia reminds me a lot of that."

Both men are excited about the prospect of their new life here. "The downshift started because we got tired of the consumer lifestyle we all seem to fall into. We decided that if you spend less money, you need to earn less. If you grow more of your own food, you know where it has come from; you don't need to buy it and so on—the logical conclusion is to try to be self sufficient in food, fuel etcetera—not survivalism by any means, just returning to a homesteader type of life."

Each of them will make equal but different contributions. Says Matt, "I am interested in computers, the Internet and would quite like to work from home. I don't mind getting my hands dirty but don't think I will be good at making us jams or pickles or soap. I think I will be OK with a chainsaw and will probably have to keep the finances in order."

This bucolic vision is not a queer remake of Green Acres. The two downshifters balance idealism with practicality and they are quite prepared for the hard work that realizing their dream will require.

We bid them a warm welcome to Canada! ▼

Photos courtesy of Matt and AJ

Ralph Higgins is a writer, columnist and book/movie reviewer living in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia.

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How Society Matures

By Sean McClennan

Without going into definitions, I think that we would all agree that there is something called *maturity* and that generally as they grow up, human beings go through different levels of it. I also think that it's fairly uncontroversial to suggest that how mature an individual is, is largely defined by their behaviour—how they react in different situations. And I think that we've all run across people whose chronological age just doesn't seem to be in line with how we think they should behave. *"Grow up!" "Act your age!" "Wise beyond your years."* You only have to look at the language to understand how true it is that the perception at least is there.

Applying definitions and measures to try to quantify maturity—well that's another question and likely to be much more controversial. But for the sake of argument, let's take the work of one psychologist, José Stevens; he outlines some fundamental principles of maturation and defines five levels of maturity between *Infant* and *Adult* in his book, *Transforming your Dragons*.

According to Dr. Stevens, as we mature, there is a general tendency towards wider experience and a greater capacity to digest the situations encountered in life. As people mature, they show a greater capacity to find peaceful solutions to conflicts; they demonstrate a greater independence of thought; they develop greater compassion and self-confidence; they become more respectful of the rights of others and they grow less fearful of the unknown.

Of course, youth does not always equate to lower stages of maturity, any more than age guarantees *Adult* behaviour. Life experience and education can accelerate maturation, and anyone can get *fixated* in their development. The following belief statements might characterize adults fixated at lower stages of maturity:

1 Infant

- My tribe, clan, or gang is everything to me. I couldn't exist without them.
- I feel lost without direction and people telling me what to do.
- As far as I am concerned, no behaviour is out of bounds for me.
- People that play fair are suckers.
- I seem to be scared all the time.

2 Toddler

- Strangers and foreigners make me uncomfortable.
- What this country needs is more law and order.
- You have to watch out for germs and viruses. They are everywhere.
- People should know their place.
- I usually do what I'm told.
- Spare the rod and spoil the child, I always say.

3 Child

- Life is about competition. You have to be better than the next guy.
- A fool and his money are soon parted. They deserve what they get.
- Free enterprise is good. Nothing should interfere with it.
- I believe my ideas are best for the world. People should be more like me.
- Clothes make the man/woman.
- Life is survival of the fittest. The strong win. The weak lose.

4 Adolescent

- I want to understand myself more. I like to understand people and why they do things.
- I have not completely made up my mind about the meaning of life.
- My emotional relationships are intensely involving.
- I believe that the environment has to be protected from ruthless plundering.
- I will gladly march in protest for what I feel is right.
- I believe there is much unfairness in the world and that I should work to correct it.

5 Adult

- You do your thing and I'll do mine.
- I cannot harm others without harming myself.
- I believe in the spirit of the law rather than the letter of it.
- I feel a deep spirituality that is not necessarily related to religion.
- Appearance is not so important. Internal qualities are what count in life.
- I seem to be able to move among social classes with relative ease.
- I do not believe in arms for peace.
- I like to work hard and then relax with my family and friends.
- There is much more to life than getting ahead.
- I would give up a fortune to preserve the forests, lakes and animals.

Probably reading these you'll recognize people that you know and even aspects of yourself now or at other points in your life. Possibly, these classifications might make you uncomfortable or even angry—there is certainly an unapologetic attachment of political beliefs attached the stages of maturity and naturally there is an association of *more mature* with *better*. So be it—it's a discussion after all and as Aristotle says: "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." For the time being, let's entertain that idea.

The fact that we can so easily connect the stages of maturity to politics just begs us to apply these stages to societal phenomena. After all, societies and their beliefs and actions are the result of the beliefs and actions of individuals. It's a valid exercise—we just need to remember that you can't work backwards and generalize that all the members of society *X* are at that maturity level.

Religion is where I'm taking all this; the impact of religion on all levels of our individual and global lives (positive or negative) cannot be understated. From the level on which we draw comfort and strength in times of strife, to the social reaction to the struggle for GLBT rights, to the impact of terrorism on the world community, framing religious belief in terms of "maturity" might provide really interesting insights into how to think and cope when beliefs come into conflict.

Some (like Karl Marx) would be inclined to immediately classify all religion as *immature*. That would be naive—sociologically and psychologically it is clear that religion plays a role in all human life. Even individuals and societies who claim to have transcended *religion* have nearly comparable belief systems. Science, communism and any number of other systems have supplanted religion in various

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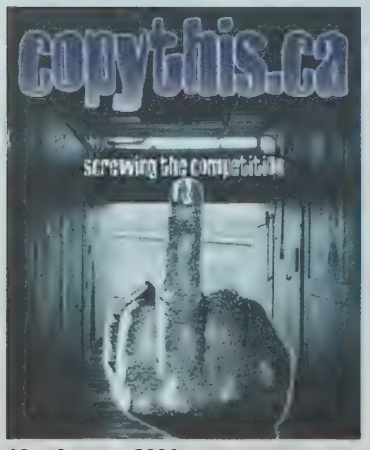

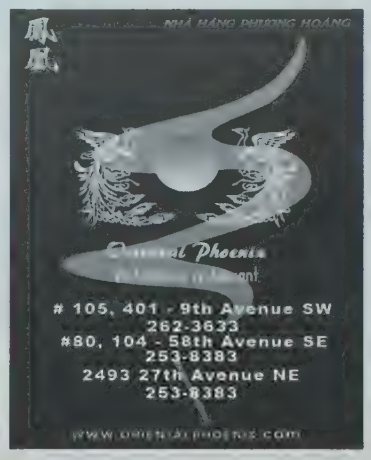

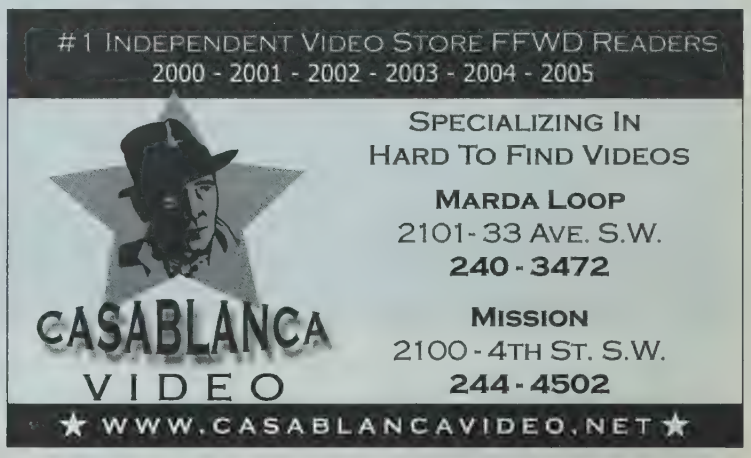

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communities, but sociologically fulfill the same needs (and are as susceptible to the same stages of maturity). The difference (and not an insignificant one) lies in the fact that such systems don't call on the supernatural to understand the world whereas religion invariably does on some level.

No, it is clear that religion (or its surrogate) serves a functional role in all our lives—it is as much a part of the human experience as eating and breathing—and growing up. That being said, religion has as much potential for dysfunction—Marx was largely right when he said, "in society, the dominant religion supports the status quo and diverts the attention of the oppressed from their real problems." It's hard to plausibly counter this. Take Louisiana Senator David Vitter's recent comments about gay marriage in the US: "I don't believe there's any issue more important than this one." I'm as passionate as the next fag about gay rights, but by no means am I willing to claim that compared to war, genocide, hurricanes, and environmental devastation, that gay marriage is the single most important issue facing human civilization at this point in time!

It is a valid question, though, to ask whether the dominant religion is the problem, or whether it's simply the case that generally the dominant religions are not well matured. It would be shortsighted to try to take, say the Qur'an and the Bible, assign them to a stage of maturity and then argue in favour of one or the other. Any religion has the capacity to mature, just as any human does—the question is how the religion is approached. Fundamentalist Christians take the Bible to be literal word of God—that is not just immature but irrational, because it is demonstrably false (the Bible wasn't written in English for one thing, but moreover, the content has changed over the last couple thousand years: "Misquoting Jesus" by Bart Ehrman is a good discussion of that fact). It is not irrational or immature to speculate that the bible was inspired by divinity and try to find the truth in it, or to look to the bible to find comfort or guidelines for how to bring meaning into one's life. And there is no lack of Christians or sects of Christianity that take that perspective.

Fundamentalism, applied to Christianity, or Islam, or science, or even the gay rights movement, can probably be equated with immaturity and it's consequently unsurprising the amount of conflict that the various incarnations of fundamentalism give rise to in the world. The big question is what to do about it? Pushing the analogy further: how do mature adults deal with children? Do we try to stamp them out of existence? No, we try to nurture them into individuals with compassion, understanding, education, freedom to experience and grow, but with a watchful, protective eye (Note where *spare the rod, spoil the child* falls on the scale above). Where the analogy breaks down is that while children are raised by and will generally acknowledge the authority of more mature parents and teachers, communities have a much harder time doing that. In a sense, when modern fundamentalism arises out of a millennia-old religion, it is because they have lost the continuity of the more mature guiding and teaching the less. One challenge our civilization faces as our population grows into the *global village* is how to recognize (and defer to) greater social maturity.

That's when we have to return to the individual: it will ultimately be true that the society has to follow along with the individuals who comprise it. Do something to further the cause of your own maturity—and the maturity of the people around you. ▼

Sean McLennan is a native Calgarian with (nearly) a PhD in Linguistics and Cognitive Science from Indiana University, where he was heavily involved in GLBT education. He currently has a full time gig in software for mobile technology.

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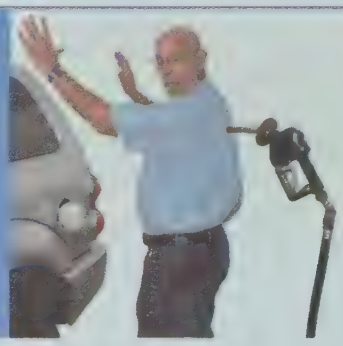

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The man behind
the movie

The Greenroom with Charlie David

By Charlie David

Eighteen is an age of thresholds—no longer a boy and struggling to fill the boots of a man. Filmmaker Richard Bell tackles this dichotomy in his new film, aptly titled *Eighteen*, which focuses on a contemporary young man while simultaneously paralleling the life of his grandfather at the same age.

In this film Pip (Paul Anthony) is a street kid who is meeting life head-on in the big city. On his eighteenth birthday he receives his grandfather's World War II memoirs on audio cassette, a gift that awakens the ghost of a long lost world. His grandfather (Brendan Fletcher/Sir Ian McKellen) relates the story of the day he turned eighteen, fleeing German forces through the woods of France with Macauley (Mark Hildreth), a dying comrade hanging on for life. In Pip's own way, he begins to live the parallel life of his grandfather, both lost in their environments and generations.

Along Pip's path, he stumbles into an unlikely alliance with Clark (Clarence Sponagle), a gay street hustler on the make, and Jenny (Carly Pope), an aspiring social worker who tempts Pip with love and domesticity. He also forges an important relationship with a local priest (Alan Cumming) in whom he confides his deepest secret—the death of his brother and the heinous act his father committed against him the night he died.

Outlooks recently caught up with director Richard Bell in Europe where he's on a whirlwind film festival tour.

Outlooks: What was the inspiration for *Eighteen*?

Bell: The inspiration for Eighteen came from the fact that my granddad left his World War II memoirs on audiocassette for my older brother and me.

Outlooks: Your first film, *Two Brothers*, was produced with an astonishing $500 budget. With *Eighteen*, the budget is comprised of support from Telefilm, CHUM City TV, BC Film, Movie Central, The Movie Network, CWIP, TLA Releasing and Domino Pictures. What were the challenges in financing Eighteen?

Bell: *Eighteen* was difficult to finance because I was a first time director, working with first time feature film producers. We really had to work hard to drum up confidence. It's great that we have national and provincial film financing bodies but it's a competitive game and they really make you jump through hoops to get the money. I had to defend a lot of my creative decisions with them—from the screenplay right through to the final product. They also rarely deliver the money on time, so it gets very stressful.

Outlooks: How have you developed as a director from *Two Brothers* through *Eighteen*?

Bell: Obviously *Eighteen* is a quantum leap forward from *Two Brothers*, but in many ways, directing both felt very similar. I am an *actor's director*. I prefer spending my time with the actors and drawing out the best performances possible from them—and that's what I did with both films. Although *Eighteen* was profoundly more complex than Two Brothers—my team, mostly my DOP, Kevin van Niekirk, took care of those technical details while I concentrated on the actors. I think where I experienced the most growth actually was from day one of shooting on Eighteen to the final day. On day one, I was incredibly overwhelmed—Alan Cumming graciously coached me in private moments—but by the last day, I felt a lot more confident, grounded and *seasoned*.

Outlooks: How do you feel the GLBT community is currently represented in film and television?

Bell: I think we're being represented all right. It's all baby steps. I think that if we have a problem with the way our community is being represented then it is up to us to make it better. Gandhi said, "Be the change you want to see in the world." I wanted to see films where the sexualities of the characters were incidental, as my sexuality is in my life, and I wanted to see films where straight guys and gay guys got along in a meaningful way. So, I went out and made those films.

Outlooks: *Eighteen* will be distributed through TLA Releasing, are you recognizing a difference in securing a distributor early in the game in comparison to the personal promotional phase that *Two Brothers* experienced?

Bell: It's important to get a distributor early on in the game, simply because they provide some capital to get the film done. Other than that, I don't see how it makes much of a difference.

Outlooks: What are the major challenges as an emerging Canadian filmmaker?

Bell: Canada has a lot of growing up to do. I think the films we make are fine; it's the distributors that need to get their act together. *Canadian Film* feels like it has a big *L* held up to its forehead and it's the distributors who need to make our industry sexier, through better campaigns, advertising and exposure. The filmmakers are working as hard as they can.

Outlooks: When you have a film such as *Eighteen*, made for a fraction of a Hollywood studio picture's advertising budget, how do you compete for ticket sales?

Bell: I don't think there is any way we can compete. I applaud the efforts of grass roots organizations to get Canadians to see Canadian films, but until we become a little bit more American, or indeed French Canadian about the promotion of our homegrown product, we will never be able to compete seriously.

Outlooks: How important is the festival circuit for a film's life?

Bell: The festival circuit is hugely important to a film's life. Not only is it tremendous fun for the filmmaker, but it gives the film all sorts of global exposure. Audience and jury awards give the film leverage and are good to show to future funders. As someone who believes in networking globally, I think it's important to go to as many festivals as possible.

Outlooks: What's next on the horizon for Mr. Richard Bell?

Bell: I just signed with Perry Zimel at OAZ in Toronto. It's the best talent agency in the country, and I really hope that it will lead to directing some television episodics so I can leverage myself a bit and I can spend more time writing projects of passion.

Outlooks: Where can we buy/rent/see your films?

Bell: *Eighteen* is available to purchase on DVD at **tlavideo.com** or **eighteenthemovie.com**. I am quite proud of the DVD because there's a fascinating documentary included, as well as a rather frank and personal director's commentary. I think it might be too personal.

Outlooks: Hmmm…now that has us intrigued. ▼

Charlie David is an actor and co-host of B[illegible]

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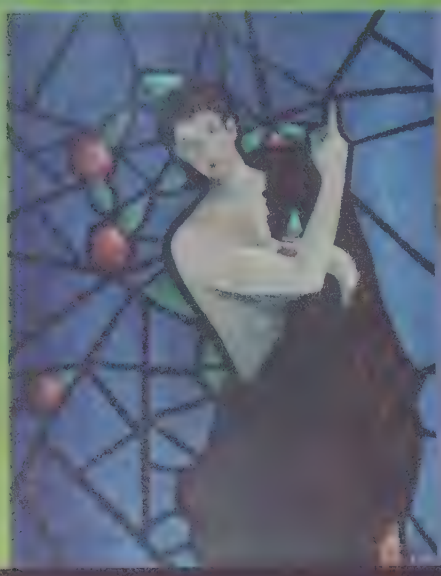

"I draw my **inspiration** from my **personal relationships, EXPERIENCES** and the characters I create"

Kirk is a self-taught artist, musician and songwriter and studies acting at Company of Rogues Actors Studio. His latest performance was The Laramie Project (December 2005). Out of many of his original songs, some of them are accompanied by a painting.

OUTLOOKS

Each month we feature a GLBT photographer or artists' work to showcase Canadian artistic talent. If you would like to be included please send samples of your work to main@outlooks.ca

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A New Queer Voice

By Darrin Hagen

In 1964 in New York, a play by Lanford Wilson hit the stage. It was called *The Madness of Lady Bright*, and told the story of an aging drag queen as she faced, by herself, her lonely future. It is often referred to as the official beginning of gay theatre history in North America.

Fast forward a generation or two, and gay theatre is thriving. In fact, when I got into theatre, it was because all theatre seemed to bear the creative imprint of the gay imagination. And now, with the Fringe Festival circuit nurturing new writers from coast to coast, the gay voice is being heard loud and clear.

I first witnessed the phenomenon that is the Edmonton Fringe from the hood of a '57 Pontiac, dressed as a mermaid. Whyte Avenue lay before me and even though I was nervous (this was 1987, after all), the crowd cheered as Neon, Twiggy and I gave Edmonton its first taste of underground glamour.

We had some competition in the glamour department that year, as it was the Year of the Queen. Ronnie Burkett was performing in drag as Ilsa, in *Ilsa, Queen of the Nazi Love Camp*; and Kent Staines donned trashy nylons and a cut-away ballgown in *Lana Lust: The Bitch Stops Here*.

The times, they are a-changing. The one thing that hasn't changed is that the Fringe is still one of the finest places to check out what's coming down the pipe as far as new queer theatre goes.

Gerald Osborne, Fringe Almuni and the man who answers all my stupid questions every time I phone the Fringe office, bursts onto the scene this year with his porn fantasia extravaganza, *Adam Butterfly*. Fans of Osborne's (and there are many) may recognize some of the characters from his annual *Loud & Queer* outings. But if all you know about his writing is gleaned from his previous Fringe shows, hold on to your hat: unlike his previous hits, *Toying With Dinky, Screamplay* and *BabyHead*, *Adam Butterfly* is a raunchy and rollicking night featuring the porn actor Johnny Allcock coming to life from within the VCR and meeting Adam, a man who's sworn off sex forever. Get ready for x-rated pointers on how to snag a man.

Actor (and now writer) Berend McKenzie hails from Vancouver and has his own share of Fringe festivals under his belt. In addition to flogging Bingo Daubers at a drag queen Bingo murder mystery in Edmonton a few years back, he shone in Christopher Durang's *Beyond Therapy* at the 2000 Vancouver Fringe. So convincing was his drag portrayal of the psychotic therapist Charlotte, that the Vancouver Sun reader's poll voted him best actress (much to the chagrin of the LotusLand actress community). Berend takes a leap into the near-blasphemous this year with his writing debut, *Get Off The Cross, Mary*, the tale of a group of foul-mouthed egomaniacal puppets who decide to stage their big comeback by filming a queer disco version of *The Passion*. Who knew there was a gloryhole in the olive grove?

Newcomer Nick Green follows up his NextFest run of his multi-scene two-hander, *Gay Face* at this year's Fringe. It explores and dissects the evolution of a relationship as it struggles to survive in the face of the unique pressures of the gay scene. Similarly, Greg Caswell's *Why Can't I Get Laid* is a somewhat-musical entry, using musical theatre selections to help tell the story of a man who can't seem to get past that first step towards falling in love.

All four of these writers debuted work at last year's Loud & Queer Festival, showing that the development of a new queer voice is something that Edmonton offers in abundance. In a city that is crazy-in-love with writer development, new stories and new talents are always bubbling to the surface. Like our Sister Fringe in Winnipeg, the free-market gamble that has changed theatre forever is creating a whole new breed of artist: multi-disciplined, self-producing and fearlessly gay.

These plays, these writers, are not only finding the courage to tell their stories, but are finding audiences as well. The development of the queer voice and the stories it has to tell affects not just the cultural world, but also the next generation sitting in the audience. The queer voice speaks to that generation and presents it with a myriad of choices and possibilities.

Having grown up in a time when the only stories about gay life available to me were on the hate-filled pages of Alberta Report, I am proud to be counted among the members of that queer voice. This year, I have unearthed the tale of one of the best-kept secrets of the Third Reich. In *The Neo-Nancies: Hitler's Kickline*, I have created a gentle and very queer Nazi German cabaret about Zarah Leander, the Diva of the Third Reich, and Bruno Balz, her best friend and the most famous lyricist in War-era Germany, who just happened to be gay enough to spend time in prison for his *transgressions* with a lusty Hitler Youth. Their tale, and the story of the SS Guards who were forced to don headdresses and high heels to perform in a Nazi musical, is a perfect example of the type of story that, in a more conservative time, would have remained untold. ▼

Photo Courtesy of Darrin Hagen

Darrin Hagen is the author of one book and eleven plays, all of which feature a man wearing a dress. He is currently working on an updated tenth anniversary edition of "The Edmonton Queen".

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LOCATION:	Tomkins Park (17th Ave. & 8th St. SW)
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HAIRCUTS:	Adults $20.00 Children $10.00 Pets $20.00

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OAHU BECKONS

Honolulu Sunset

By Charlie David

Don't pack away your swimsuit and beach body yet. With summer coming to a close in Canada, it's the perfect time to start planning for an autumn or winter getaway and there's no place on earth like Hawaii. On this trip, I decided to spend two months on Oahu, an island forty-four miles long by thirty miles wide. One may imagine that two months would be ample time to explore an island of this size, but even as my days grew numbered, I realized I had only just begun to tap into the adventures, beauty and wonders of Oahu.

The Hawaiian Islands, located in the central Pacific Ocean, are the most remote chain of islands in the world. The state is made up of eight islands and three quarters of the residents live on Oahu, where Honolulu is the capital city and principal port. The island of Oahu is the business, educational, financial and tourism center of the State. The majority of the island is rural or as the locals call it, *the country* and most residents of Oahu live along the southern shore. With a cross section of ethnic groups including Caucasian, Hawaiian, Japanese, Filipino, Samoan, Tongan, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Black to name a few; the islands are a virtual mosaic of unique and distinctive cultures. Since no group represents an ethnic or religious majority, there is a fairly high degree of acceptance of various lifestyles including gay and lesbian.

During my stay, I was invited to the hale *(ha-lay)* or homes of several same-sex couples with children and fitting with the laid-back personality of Oahu, few had stories to share of discrimination. As we ate pupu *(poo-poo)*—yes, you read that right, they are Hawaiian hors d'oeuvres—I learned from the little surfers in training that the worst thing one might be called on the island in my case would be a haole *(how-lee)*: Caucasian, a malihini *(mah-lee-hee-nee)*: a newcomer, or a mahu *(mah-hoo)*: a male or female homosexual. As my grandfather always taught me the best comeback in any case is to smile and say mahalo *(mah-ha-low)*: thank you.

The majority of gay nightclubs and businesses are in the Waikiki area, Honolulu's urban beach resort famous for its stretch of reef-protected white sand beach and wide variety of hotels, restaurants, shops and nightlife. The best way to convey what the Honolulu/Waikiki area offers is to walk you through a day from Hawaiian sunrise to sunset. First step is getting a tan and you'll want to sport that new Speedo on one of the gay beaches, the most famous and appropriately named Queen's Surf Beach.

If water sports are your game, hit up Snorkel Bob's, where you can rent surfboards, boogie boards, skim boards, snorkels and fins by the day or week. If you plan to do some inter-island hopping, the bonus is that Snorkel Bob's has locations on every island, so you can pick up or return gear wherever you may land. There are snorkel and dive adventures for every level and the coral reefs are some of the world's best. If you're looking for relaxation there are many walk-in shallow dives where you'll encounter a myriad of fish and quite likely sea turtles. If you want to get your adrenaline pumping, try strapping on an air tank and being lowered down in a shark cage where you'll soon find yourself being circled and eyed by the great predators of the deep.

Keep that beach body in prime condition by hitting up Max's Gym, a private men's club with steam room, sauna, showers and video room. They have weights and cardio equipment too. For those who enjoy my favorite sport, shopping, there are plenty of places to burn your money. If your tastes are slightly more *au courant* than puka shells and woven beach blankets, head up to the Ala Moana Center. Yes, I know, who wants to spend their vacation in a mall? If I told you it is one of the largest outdoor shopping centers in the world housing the likes of Gucci, Versace, Louis Vuitton, Prada, Channel, Dior, down through Abercrombie & Fitch, Lacoste to Diesel would you change your tune?

Looking for some shopping that meets the needs of the GLBT traveler specifically? Diamond Head Video, Backseat Betty's or Video Warehouse will quench the need for celluloid for all you cinemaniacs and also house a variety of adult toys, books, gifts, magazines, lubricants…need I say more? The cute and friendly staff at eighty percent Straight, located in the lobby of the Waikiki Grand Hotel, will fit you for the beach or a special pool party with swimsuits and underwear by 2xist, Sauvage, Pistol Pete, C-IN2, Go Software, G. Parry and Aussie Bum.

In the pages of *Odyssey* or *DaKine* magazines, two free local monthly guides to the GLBT life on the islands, you'll find pages of skilled masseuses advertising the magic of their bodies and hands. Most have In/Out service as well as options for ocean-side treatments and relaxation sessions. For a licensed day spa, drop by Myospa featuring deep tissue specialists, male and female therapists, and holistic body treatments utilizing indigenous clays, lava rock and marine life.

The island of Oahu has numerous historical landmarks, museums and galleries to stroke you or your cerebral boyfriend in just the right way. A few miles north of Honolulu, you'll find Pearl Harbor, site of the infamous December 7, 1941 attack on American soil. Many visitors find they can spend a whole day pondering the relics, battleship and gravesite.

The Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum's reputation as a major scientific research institution is based upon its extensive collection of Hawaiian and Pacific artifacts, insects, marine and land shells, plant, bird and mammal specimens. Collections include anthropology ethnology, archaeology, botany, entomology and zoology.

Located on Honolulu's scenic Makiki Heights, The Contemporary Museum combines exhibitions of contemporary art with terraced gardens and spectacular views. The museum's satellite gallery, The Contemporary Museum at First Hawaiian Center in downtown Honolulu, features rotating exhibitions of the work of Hawaiian artists.

It's comforting to know you won't be the only queens on the island. Built in 1882, Iolani Palace was the official residence of King Kalakaua and Queen Liliuokalani, the last monarchs of Hawaii. The site of coronations, lavish social events and political turmoil, the Palace has been elegantly and meticulously restored with original royal furnishings.

As the sun begins to set and your stomach starts to growl, there's nothing quite as satisfying as a Mai-Tai or lava flow with pupu *(poo-poo)*: hors d'oeuvres on a seaside patio. I suggest Tapa's, La Cucaracha or the Rock Island Café. The islands are a seafood lover's paradise with fresh catch offered daily and with the cultural diversity of Oahu, one could taste every delicacy under the sea for months and never exhaust the possibilities. Of course, when we think of Hawaii we imagine *luaus* and one of the best is offered at the Polynesian Cultural Centre located about an hour's scenic drive from Waikiki. The seven native villages accessible by foot or by river give visitors the rare chance to participate in the daily adventures of Hawaiian and other South Pacific cultures. Dinner should always be served with music and the locals offer an explosion for the senses through Hawaii's most authentic luau and the world's largest night show. Trust me, you've never seen hips on anyone move this fast!

Once the sun is down its time for nightlife and Honolulu has plenty to offer. A great place to start is Hula's, the oldest gay establishment in town. With

Bishop Museum *Sea Turtle*

an open air second floor patio and friendly locals, this is the place to get the word on where the party is. And you'll want to make sure you're in the loop—Hawaiians have a tendency to suddenly migrate to a new location. Making the rounds from Hula's to Fusion for the midnight drag show and 'cash grab' in the cash cube, to Angles then In Between and Venus before heading back to Fusion for the male strippers is hardly out of the question. Fusion is the only gay bar licensed until 4:00 am. By the time you find your way home, you may just want to claim your spot on the beach because the sun will be rising momentarily.

For those who look for a holiday pace a little less action-packed, I highly recommend the North Shore, far away from the big city lifestyle of Honolulu/Waikiki and a secret getaway (guess I just spoiled that). Towering green cliffs and lush tropical foliage dominate the scenic windward coast. World-famous surfing beaches like Waimea Bay dot the north shore. During the summer months, the water of this bay is calm and great for swimming with a large sandy beach area. But watch out during the winter months when the waves can reach heights of thirty feet. This is the home of the largest, most dangerous and spectacular surf in the world.

Hawaiian Resort Cuisine

I *camped out* for two months at Turtle Bay Resort in Kahuku, Oahu. The resort's 880 acres create a distinct island world complete with thirty-six holes of championship golf including an Arnold Palmer PGA course and the only George Fazio course in Hawaii. Can you tell I like golf? Other amenities include the North Shore's only full-service spa, more than five miles of running paths and legendary beachfront.

The rooms and suites range from $400 to $2500 per night, each with a private lanai, offering stunning views of the bays by day or night—that's right they *light* the surf at night. If you'd prefer, choose one of the luxury three or four-bedroom Ocean Villas or Beach Cottages with Brazilian walnut floors, fifteen-foot ceilings, regal beds and marble bathrooms with deep soaking tubs.

Legendary surf pro Hans Hedemann operates a surf school where budding boarders can practice their skills at nearby Kawela Bay or in the protected surf breaks that front the resort's pool area. Daring graduates can visit the nearby Banzai Pipeline, Sunset Beach, and Waimea Bay. Those who prefer to stay on land can enjoy twelve miles of hiking, biking and horseback riding trails, ten tennis courts—and miles of sandy beach. Two landscaped swimming pools, one with a cascading waterfall and waterslide and dotted Jacuzzis allow one to laze the day away under the canopy of palm trees. With a choice of four restaurants and two bars to satisfy even the most discerning palette, you may begin to consider selling your home and moving into Turtle Bay Resort for good. So, what are you waiting for? Leave your winter clothes where they belong—at the back of your closet—come enjoy the islands! Aloha! ▼

Helpful Websites:

gohawaii.com
hulas.com
cabana-waikiki.com
turtlebayresort.com
inbetweenonline.com
80percentstraight.com
odysseyhawaii.com
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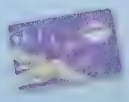

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out & about VANCOUVER

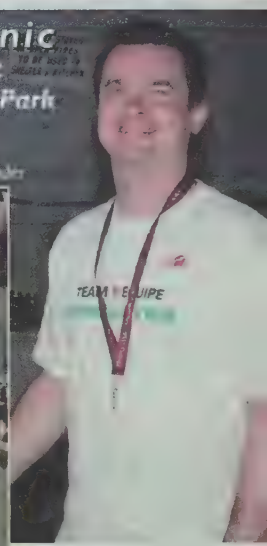
Uniform Night—July 2 at Pumpjack

Geoff (Left) & vi
from Seattle

Unknown leather man

Bartender Troy

Pride Picnic—July 15 at Stanley Park

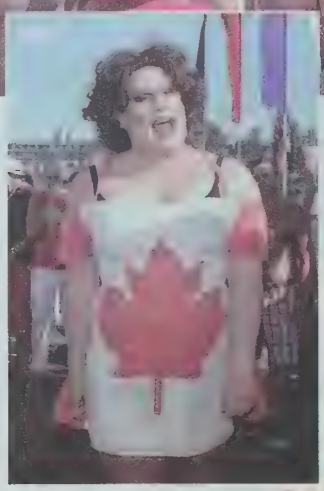


Team member bartender

False Creek Cruisey T—July 2 aboard Britannia

Planning an event in Vancouver?
Contact Barry at (604) 685-1377
and he'll see about covering it in Out & About.
Photos by: Barry Piersdorff

Canada Day at the Pumpjack



Topher (Left) & Ryan

By David King

In a hugely multi-cultural city like Toronto, it might surprise subway commuters that the ethno-cultural HIV ads above their heads exist thanks to the efforts of Toronto's African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS, or ACCHO for short. After all, haven't inter-racial and ethno-dynamic HIV awareness campaigns been in plain view already?

Allegedly not, says ACCHO, who launched the campaign in early June as a first for the Black Canadian community. Circulating all summer across major Ontario locations, ACCHO's billboards, radio, transit, web and print ads are hot on display following a meeting of minds between ACCHO committee organizers, Toronto ad agency Top Drawer and LH Metropolis Communications.

It adds up to a perfect segue into August's International HIV/AIDS Congress in Toronto, where ACCHO will visibly play its part in hosting our global neighbours. Question is, just how effective are these rather clean-cut ads in encouraging safer sex and testing? As ACCHO Co-Chair Winston Husbands purports, the community makes up thirteen per cent of poz individuals in Ontario. And with some rather large stigmas in the community associated with HIV/AIDS to reduce first, little has worked thus far to invoke a deeper, more *meaningful dialogue*.

Husbands' observations certainly played out with Top Drawer President Howard Chang in considering the 'creatives' behind the campaign. As Chang describes, getting ACCHO's message out was a combination of careful planning and a domino effect of volunteerism from a mostly supportive Afro-Caribbean community.

"We didn't want to make any assumptions," says Chang, "so we put together some research and phoned about 350 households of Afro-Caribbean descent, eventually forming focus groups. What we got was the need to address this issue without stigmas such as Africa as the source of the virus, for example. Most younger members said forget about the stigmas, that this campaign is important and that this has affected their lives, while many older members asked for sensitivity".

Using a grassroots approach, Chang and his team at Top Drawer initially armed themselves with three ad campaigns: one hard-hitting, one based on universality and optimism, and one cherishing life, family, hopes and dreams. The latter won the day, with the tag line *Keep It Alive* hovering over ads targeted inside and outside the community.

"To date we've received very little negative response from it," assures Chang, "and the overwhelming response is thank goodness, right on, it's about time".

Engaging celebrated Toronto photographer Michael Chambers, Top Drawer and ACCHO found volunteer models from the community with little fuss, along with Regent Park's hip-hop, indie artist Joseph *Trench* for radio spots. Emerging photographers Mussie Berhan and Mandy Duncan joined Chambers in scheduling shoots both downtown Toronto and in Scarborough. Time will tell just how effective this informed and sensitive campaign will play out.

"The message *Keep It Alive* keeps it together," Chang observes. "It's about hope, preserving your life, staying healthy and keeping your friends and family healthy. And that's definitely a tag that has some legs."

ACCHO's ad campaign unfolds at the same time as the launch of it's new website at **accho.ca** and the website **preventAIDS.ca**, an interactive site devoted to info and resources on HIV/AIDS. ▼

David King is a freelance journalist currently residing in Montreal. A writer, performer and director, he is the co-founding Artistic Director of Montreal's OUT Productions.

Cruise
Gay Astrology's Website

www.AccessNewAge.com/Stargayzer

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Gay Love Signs, Closets in your Chart
Stonewall horoscope

This site offers easy to order personal readings by Madam L.

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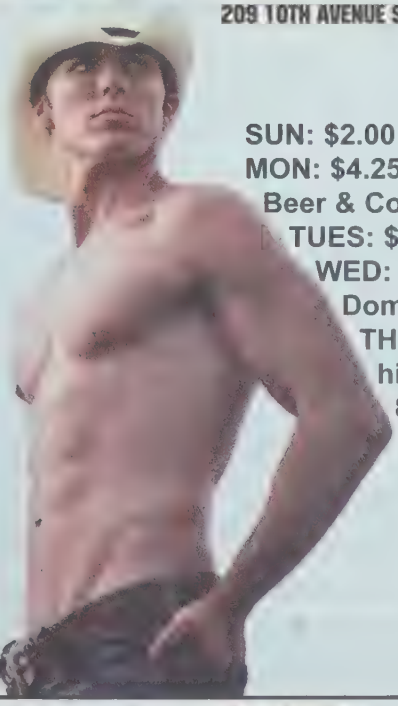

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MON: $4.25 Import Beer & Cooler
TUES: $2.00 Draft
WED: $3.75 Highballs and Domestic Beer
THURS: $5 double highballs 8pm till close
FRI: ISCCA BBQ's @ 5:30

summertime BBQ

This is the time of year for outdoor fun which always includes dining outside in the yard or on the patio enjoying the aromas of a barbeque. Chef Jorde has prepared some recipes to enhance your culinary skills and make you the master (or mistress) of the grill.

Barbeque Salmon with Pineapple Salsa

Ingredients

2 6-oz Salmon steaks or fillets
200 ml Salsa
1/2 can Pineapple tidbits
1 whole Lemon

Method:

1 Mix salsa and pineapple. Add a little pineapple juice to thin slightly.
2 Grate the peel from the lemon and add to the salsa mixture. Squeeze the juice from the lemon into the mix and blend well.
3 Place each piece of salmon on a square of aluminum foil large enough to wrap the fish.
4 Top each piece with half of the salsa mix, and wrap tightly in the foil.
5 Place the wrapped fish on the barbeque on medium heat and cook for 10 or 15 minutes until done. Don't overcook it or the salmon will dry out.
6 Serve with a chilled chardonnay, spritzer or beer as your taste dictates.

Barbeque Beef Strip Loin Steak

Ingredients

2 8-oz Strip loin steaks (any nice cut of beef works well)
250 ml Barbeque sauce
1/2 can Chipode peppers (in Adobo sauce)
10 drops Liquid Smoke

Method:

1 Chop the chipode peppers into fine pieces and place in a bowl. If your hands are sensitive, wear rubber gloves as the peppers may irritate your skin.
2 Add the barbeque sauce and liquid smoke and mix well.
3 Place the steaks on the hottest part of the barbeque and brush with the barbeque sauce. Turn the steaks once or twice to make turkey and brush the other side. Use lots of the barbeque sauce, and don't worry too much if it chars a little. It's the caramelized sugars in the sauce that give it the flavour.
4 Serve the steaks with your favourite red wine, beer or sangria.

Bavarian Potato Salad

Ingredients

3 or 4 large Potatoes
200 gram Bacon
1 large White Onion
100 ml Ranch dressing
1/3 can Beer
(your favourite brand of domestic — don't use expensive imports)

Method:

1 Peel the potatoes and cut into small cubes. Boil them in salted water until they are soft in the middle. Drain them, but don't let them cool too much. This salad is intended to be served warm.
2 Chop the bacon into coarse chunks and fry. If you are also making the baked potato salad (opposite), use the extra bacon fat from that recipe as well.
3 Cut the onion into long thin strips (julienne) and fry with the bacon
4 When the onions are done, pour the ranch dressing over the bacon and onions and let simmer for a minute or so.
5 Pour a little of the beer into the mix, and stir until smooth and creamy. Drink the rest of the beer.
6 Pour the entire mix over the still warm potatoes and serve immediately.

Pork Steak Cuba Libra

Ingredients

2 8-oz Pork steaks
2 50 ml Dark rum
2 whole Limes
1 litre Cola
250 ml Vegetable oil
1 pinch Salt
1 pinch Pepper

Method:

1. Pour the rum and cola into a bowl or pan large enough to hold the steaks so they are not on top of each other.
2. Squeeze the limes into the bowl and toss in the fruit.
3. Pour some of the marinade into a tall glass with lots of ice and drink it. This is a quality-control measure to ensure that everything turned right. If needed add more rum and taste it again. Be careful with the tasting process as it can compromise your other abilities, which you may need later.
4. Add the vegetable oil to the marinade (if there is any left. If not, then you will have to start over and omit the quality control step). Season the marinade with salt and pepper.
5. Add the pork steaks to the marinade, cover with plastic food wrap and put in the refrigerator over night. Go to bed.
6. When ready to barbeque, place the steaks on the part of the barbeque where the heat is medium. Turn the steaks a couple of times to mark nicely.
7. Pork should be well done with an internal temperature of 160°F. Avoid barbeque sauce with these steaks, as the flavour of the marinade is quite subtle and sauce is likely to overpower it.
8. Serve the steaks with more rum, a strong red wine (Shiraz wines from Australia are best with this) or sangria. Beer or fruit juice also taste pretty good on a hot day.

Chicken Margarita

Ingredients

2 6-oz Chicken breasts
100 ml Tequila
2 whole Limes
1 whole Lemon
1 whole Orange

Method:

1. Pour the tequila into a bowl or pan deep enough to cover the chicken.
2. Grate the peel from one of the limes into the bowl. Squeeze the juice from the lime into the bowl and chop the pulpy remains into chunks. Add this to the bowl as well.
3. Chop the other lime, the lemon, and the orange into wedges and squeeze the juice into the tequila. Toss the squeezed wedges into the bowl.
4. Place the chicken in the marinade and cover with plastic food wrap.
5. Refrigerate overnight, turning the chicken every once in a while.
6. When ready to cook, remove the chicken from the marinade and cook on the barbeque for 10 or 15 minutes until thoroughly cooked.
7. Serve with frozen margaritas or sangria.

Baked Potato Salad

Ingredients

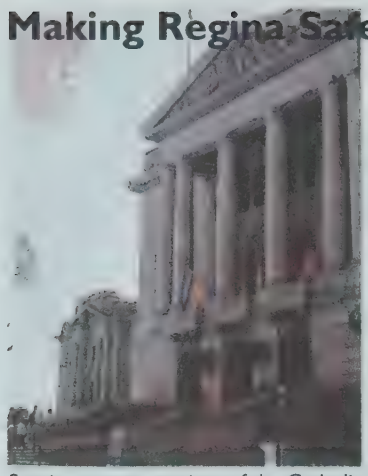
3 or 4 large Potatoes
250 ml Sour cream
1 bunch Green onions
250 gram Bacon
Splash Milk (2% will work but I have a preference for homo)
250 ml Shredded cheese (any kind will do. I used marble for colour and flavor)

Method:

1. Bake potatoes in the oven and cool thoroughly. You can put them in the freezer for a few minutes to speed this up.
2. Chop the bacon into coarse chunks and fry until crisp. Drain the fat off and set aside for use in other items like the Bavarian Potato Salad.
3. Mix sour cream, green onions and chopped bacon together. Use a little milk to thin the dressing. It should have the same consistency as any other salad dressing.
4. Cut the cooled potatoes into small cubes with the skin left on and toss lightly in the dressing.
5. Sprinkle a little shredded cheese on top and serve cold.

Enjoy your summer!

Making Regina Safer For Queer Youth



By Rick Pollard

On June 1, 2006, the City of Regina's new anti-bullying and public fighting bylaw came into effect. Both the public and Catholic school systems have anti-bullying policies on the books. More queer youth are coming out in high school than ever before. But, if a recent public forum on bullying is any indication, queer people in Regina have a long way to go before they can enjoy an environment free of homophobic bullying.

More than seventy people packed the Saskatchewan Film Pool Co-operative on a steamy night in late June to hear from five panelists, including two representatives of the Regina Police Service, representatives of the Catholic and public school systems, and Jan Cibart, a lesbian parent and chair of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour's Solidarity and Pride Committee. The topic was homophobic bullying and what can be done to prevent it.

Most of the participants agreed that the queer community's recent victories have created an environment in which gay and lesbian issues are discussed more openly. But most also agreed that, in the high school environment, this greater level of awareness of gay and lesbian issues sometimes adds to the pressure on queer youth, and that the increased visibility of queer youth is not entirely a product of increased tolerance. People who might have been able to fly *under the radar* in an earlier, less aware, time are today faced with questions about their sexual orientation. Many queer youth are prematurely forced out of the closet by gossip, rumour and harassment, at a time in their lives when they are likely still coming to terms with these issues privately.

Others see what happens to some of their peers and try even harder to be inconspicuous. "A lot of homophobic bullying still happens under the radar," said Heather Blackwell, a social worker with Regina Public Schools. "It happens, but schools don't see it, or don't deal with it. As a result, many GLBT youth still try to remain invisible."

Studies show that more than eighty per cent of bullying episodes happen with peers present, but that people intervene on behalf of the victim in just eleven to fourteen per cent of these cases. Furthermore, modern technology means that the experience of bullying doesn't necessarily end with a fight between two kids in the park. Thanks to camera phones and digital cameras, the humiliation of a victim can be repeated on-line, posted and emailed back and forth for all to see.

Ben Grebinksi, Superintendent of School Operations with Regina Catholic Schools, noted that not all bullies are the easily identifiable stereotypical rednecks. "In many cases, bullies are seen as our top kids," he said. "The bullying is very hidden, very camouflaged." Grebinski described this troubling new phenomenon as "white-collar bullying" and said that teachers need to be taught how to recognize the signs that this sort of thing is going on.

Many people pointed out that homophobic bullying is something that begins before puberty. Young people who are seen as different are often "pegged" as gay long before they have reached any conclusions about their sexuality and victimized on that basis. Even toddlers are bullied; one participant in the panel told the story of a three year old boy whose abusive father called him a *fag*.

Queer activist Nathan Seckinger suggested that this is because homophobia has its roots in a fear of what he describes as a fear of gender transgression.

"People think of this as an issue of sexuality and are mortified by the idea of introducing it into the curriculum at an early age. But people are often victims of transphobic violence long before they hit puberty."

Community leaders have tried to respond to the bullying crisis. In the aftermath of a number of tragic incidents in Saskatchewan, including one in which a sixteen-year-old boy in the town of Canora committed suicide after being victimized by bullies, the City of Regina acted. The new Anti-Bullying and Public Fighting Bylaw which came into effect on June 1, 2006, describes bullying as "any objectionable or inappropriate comment, conduct or display by a person directed at an individual, not of the same household, intended to intimidate, humiliate, ridicule or isolate, which causes or is likely to cause physical or emotional distress." Responsibility for enforcement rests with the Regina Police Service.

Public fighting is outlawed, as is encouraging one of the participants in a fight or recording a fight (with an exception made for members of the media engaged in reasonable newsgathering). The bylaw is in effect in any place within the city that is open to the public, including city streets, parking lots and sidewalks, parks and other public recreation areas, schools and public transit. There are also provisions covering electronic or written harassment and intimidation.

Penalties include fines of not more than $2,000 and/or the requirement to attend an anti-bullying course. As Inspector Roe explained, "Our objective is to change the behaviour, if we can." He admitted that charges have yet to be laid under the bylaw. "The first charges laid under the bylaw will be done with great care. We want to make sure that there is good caselaw, and that the bylaw isn't struck down by the courts because we acted too hastily."

The bylaw is subordinate to the federal Criminal Code and the provincial Occupational Health and Safety Act. Bullying within the home is a matter for the Department of Community Services under the Child and Family Services Act.

Most agreed that the new bylaw is a useful tool, particularly outside schools. Still, many queer community members admitted that they're still leery of police, something that prevents many of them from coming forward to report incidents of gay-bashing or homophobic bullying. As one young man at the panel told the police representatives, "We're still a little bit afraid of you." Others noted that stories of gay men harassed by police in known cruising areas like Wascana Park don't help.

Inspector Roe suggested that one of the best remedies for that problem is a more representative police force. The Regina Police have had some success attracting openly lesbian recruits, but as yet, there are no openly gay men on the force.

"You can change all the policies you want, but if you don't change attitudes, you haven't changed a thing," said Solidarity and Pride Committee Chair Jan Cibart. On a weekly basis, she and a representative of the Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity at the University of Regina attend a class on hate crimes at the RCMP training academy. Less frequently, Cibart meets with recruits from the Regina Police Service. The representatives of the queer community share some of their experiences and recruits are free to ask questions on any subject.

Cibart said she felt encouraged by the change she had noticed in just the past three years. "There's a lot more work to do, but recruits don't see it as a big deal anymore," she said. "I don't have people pulling me aside anymore talking about how courageous I am for being there; they just take it (my presence) as a given." Hopefully, over time, Cibart's work will lead to more informed, and tolerant, police officers working in communities throughout the country. A number of suggestions were put forward on what can be done to make schools a more secure place for queer youth. For example, queer teachers can be role models for queer youth, but they need the necessary support from the school system to be open about their sexual orientation. As well, teaching about sexual orientation needs to begin at a much earlier age, before attitudes harden. Certainly, it needs to be taught outside the high school health classes where it is discussed in the same venue as HIV-AIDS. The role of gay and lesbian people in history and in the development of our culture needs to be highlighted. Finally, guidance counselors and police resource officers should make an effort to show that their offices are "safe places for queer youth", perhaps through visual cues like the display of rainbow flags.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth are becoming more visible in Regina. The membership of Regina's support group for GLBT2 youth, Generation Queer, is growing by leaps and bounds. But more work needs to be done before the city's schools, parks and other public spaces will be safe places for queer youth. ▼

Rick Pollard is a long-time community activist and one of the co-hosts of "Out On the Air", a GLBT program that airs Wednesdays on CJTR community radio in Regina.

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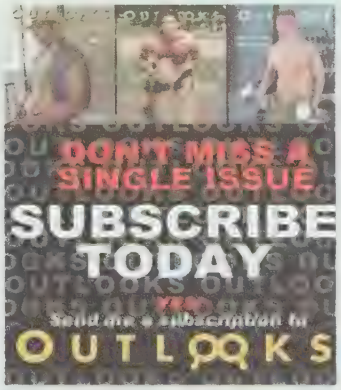

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HOROSCOPE

Prepare for a hot and steamy August that is also hot and steamy with action. Why? Because feisty Mars opposes shocking Uranus. Actions not only have reactions, they react and change everything. Prepare the steamroller, comrades!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Proud Rams can become busy bees all through August. But will the buzz live up to the billing? Will all your hard work pay off and result in a higher standard of living or are you just flying in large concentric circles? Stop when you get dizzy. Check to see if where you are going is where you want to be. Otherwise, take a breath, sit back, relax and enjoy a few stingers on the beach.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Don't expect life to be quiet, serene and generally boring. There will be a wide range of opportunities to enjoy yourself this August. You are anxious to jump into the deep end of the social pool. Queer Bulls are randy and raring to get wet! But beware of overdoing. Risks abound, so don't dive in head first now. The water depth is only six inches. Oh dear. How typical.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

The challenge this August will be to find ways to carefully balance your career obligations with your home life. Pink Twins will find themselves at an impasse but the best action may in fact be no action. Try to continue your balancing act through the month. Things will have a way of settling down and self-correcting. Otherwise, you may just tip the entire scale. Weigh in later.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

The temptation will be to say just one more thing on a certain subject but don't be tempted. The less said the better. Gay Crabs may find that an idle thought can make front page news all through August. Travel, too, will have its assorted challenges and problems. My advice: Chill out, stay close and say little. Let your actions speak louder and prouder than your words.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Although you often think that you can buy your way out of any spot of trouble, don't try to do so this August. It will be very expensive in more ways than money. Why waste your energies trying to change things that are still evolving? Let others call the shots in the short term. Sit back and wait for their missteps and buy their real estate on the cheap later. Then charge them rent!

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Pushy, pushy, pushy. At least that is how others will perceive you in August. Queer Virgins can get in with the hot crowd. They'll not only get to move and shake around many new movers and shakers, they will also make a rather big impression. All the attention may have some negative impact on established relationships. Don't ice out partners and pals. Who really loves you baby?

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Gay Libras have great imaginations. However, August will manage to deliver more than its fair share of Wilde, unbelievable scenarios, especially at work. This can lead to a trickle of great ideas or, more likely, an avalanche. Be sure that you have all the facts before you act upon anything. Read the signs carefully before you go completely off course. Err, is that a falling rock zone?

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Your social calendar can take an unexpected turn this August. What is it that you truly want proud Scorp? It seems that no matter where you set your sights, you wind up somewhere else. On the bright side, this can be a time of pure genius. Even a fiasco can be inspirational and creative. At least that is what you should put on your press release.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

If your professional path has been strewn with rocks and potholes, you may find that August opens up the landscape and gives you the ability to navigate. But the further you travel on this road, the less stability you have in your home life. Gay Archers can be footloose and fancy free but it is sort of nice to have a place to kick up and chow down. Balance is everything.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Travel this August. It is time to scratch your itchy feet. If you have limited patience and simply cannot sit still, find a serene destination and chill out for a while. And not a moment too soon, cousin. Uranus has a way of making you more opinionated and verbally corrosive. Quiet time with a relaxing undertow is just what the doctor ordered ... and by popular demand.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

As much as you yearn for love, there may be a few false starts this August, due to missed signals and clumsy over eager attempts. Aqueerians soon realize that money will not buy love. In fact, it may cause turgid waters and scuttle the Love Boat. Before you hit the pier full force, find simple, honest and heartfelt ways to show how you really feel. Use your hands.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Even though Guppies are happiest in partnerships, you may find that certain relationships are too cloying even for you this August. Maybe it's because you feel that you are giving up too much and not getting enough in return. Stop all obsessive behavior and take a breath. Realization is an important first step to recovery. Spoiling oneself is the next one.

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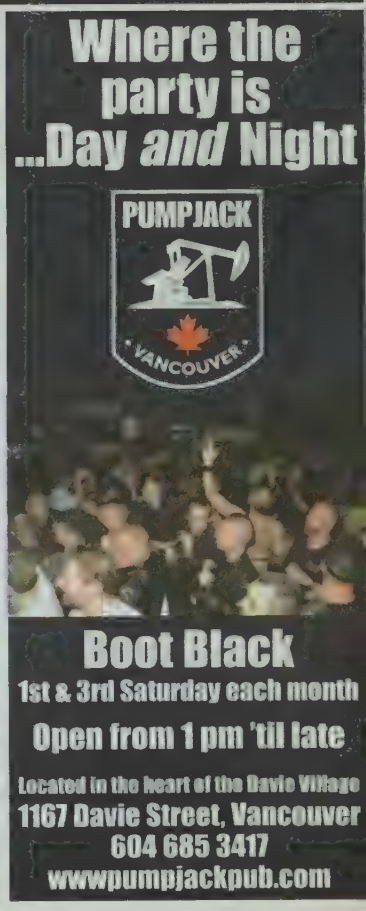

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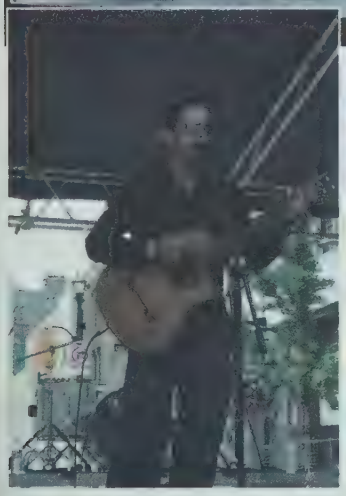

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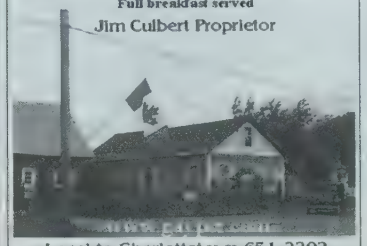
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Dale (Left) & Lionel pose with pop star James Colins

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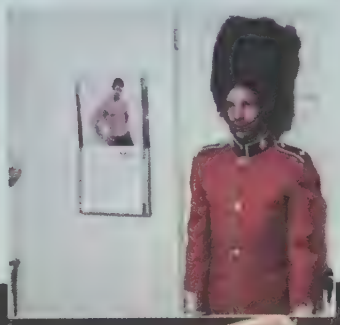
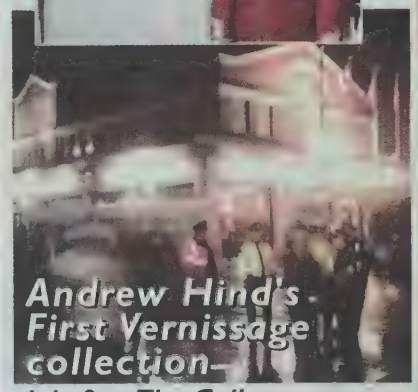


Lois Seigel Launches her Photography Collection
—July 11 at Alliance Française



Andrew Hind's First Vernissage collection—
July 8 at The Gallery

World Beats and Eats—July 7 at Saw Gallery

Guy (Left), organiser Brad and Pride Committee members Ian, Joe & Lee

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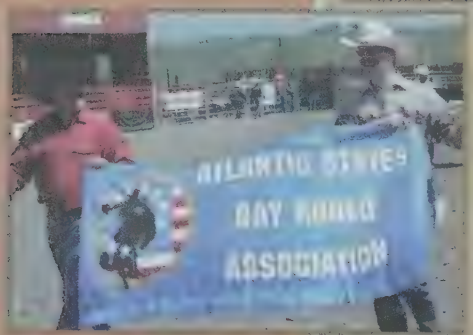
June 30 - July 2

Photos by Outlooks Staff & Greg McDonald



RODEO RESULTS

2006 Canadian All-Around Cowgirl: Lori Andrews
2006 Canadian All-Around Cowboy: Terry Watkins
2006 All-Around Cowgirl: Ty Teigen
2006 All-Around Cowboy: Shawn Smith

Calf Roping on Foot – Women's
First (Buckle) Jo-Anne B.

Calf Roping on Foot – Men's
First (Buckle) Shawn S. Placed both days

Team Roping No Winner for 2006

Break-Away Calf Roping – Women's No Winner for 2006

Break-Away Calf Roping – Men's
First (Buckle) Travis N. Placed both days

Bareback Bronc Riding – Women's
First (Buckle) Starr

Bareback Bronc Riding – Men's No Winner for 2006

Wild Steer Riding – Women's No Winner for 2006

Wild Steer Riding – Men's
First (Buckle) Douglas G.

Chute Dogging – Women's
First (Buckle) Ty T. Placed both days

Chute Dogging – Men's
First (Buckle) Darcy O.

Steer Decorating
First (Buckle) Chris E. & Darcy S.

Barrel Racing – Women's
First (Buckle) Tammy H.

Barrel Racing – Men's
First (Buckle) Woody

Goat Dressing
First (Buckle) Pepe & Shawn S.

Pole Bending – Women's
First (Buckle) Tammy H.

Pole Bending – Men's
First (Buckle) Shawn S.

Wild Drag Race
First (Buckle) Sandra W./Ty M./Robert S.

Wild Drag Costume Award
Saturday Ruth L./Dale H./Darrel R.
Sunday Ty M./Sandra W./Robert S

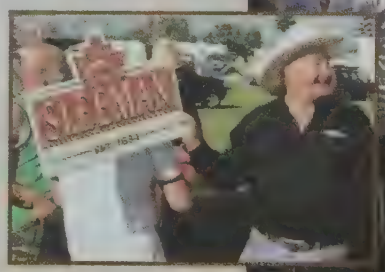
Flag Racing – Women's
First (Buckle) Lori A. Placed both days

Flag Racing – Men's
First (Buckle) David S.

Bull Riding – Women's No Winner for 2006

Bull Riding – Men's No Winner for 2006

Campsite Decorating
Daytime 1st Celebrating Canada
Jo P.
Daytime 2nd Darhawic's Tiki Hut & Pig Roast
Darlene & Hawkbye
Daytime 3rd Gay Casino
Martin G. & Mark S.
Nighttime 1st Space Cowboys
Al B. & Dale M.
Nighttime 2nd Rainbow Room
Chris B. & Deb C.
Nighttime 3rd California Sunflower
Jim H.



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OUTLOOKS CLASSIFIEDS

Index...

100 - Employment
office 101
domestic 102
trades 103
service industry 104
work wanted 105
help wanted 106
gardening services 107
salespersons wanted 108
retail salesperson 109

200 - Real Estate
homes and condos for sale 201
homes, apartments, and suites for rent 202
shared accommodations 203
accommodations 204
accommodations wanted 205
vacation rentals 206
office space for rent 207
Real Estate Agent 208
Office space wanted 209

300 - For Sale
automobiles 301
home furnishings 302
antiques and artworks 303
computers 304
general and miscellaneous 305
garage sales 306
pets 307

400 - Personals
massage 401
friends 402
models 403
dating services 404
announcements 405
phone lines 406
general 407
health services 408
personal services 409
personal growth 410
Escorts 411
Erotic Body Massage 412
women's services 413

500 - Announcements
birthdays 501
anniversary 502
obituary 503
in memoriam 504
notices 505
general 507
lost & found 508
services 509
weddings 510

600 - Travel
accommodations 601
travel Alberta 602
travel BC 603
camping 604
travel international 605
general 606

700- Business
services 701
business opportunity 702
computer rental 703

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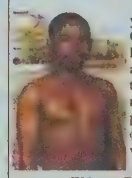

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PO BOX 187 - Berekum - B/A
Ghana

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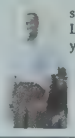
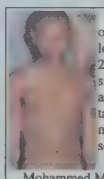
Please write to Richard Asare
PO BOX 241 Nsoatre - B/A
Ghana, West Africa



23 year old teacher, likes swimming and travelling. Looking for a man 24-55 years old for friendship.
Write to :
Rockson Kyerniel
PO BOX 2193
Sunyani B/A
Ghana W/A



Young, goodlooking, open minded, attractive, loving, single guy age 22. Looking for a man to share relationship. Looks and age are not important. Please write with e-mail or fax number and send photos.
Mohammed Mumuni
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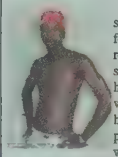

26 yr. old african searching for a man for a long lasting relationship. I am slim, romantic, honest, easy going with a good sense of humor. Interested people should write with photo to:
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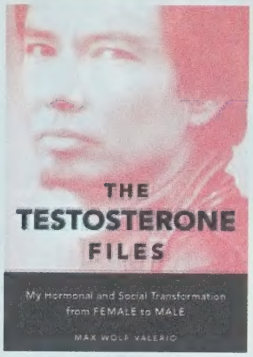


The Testosterone Files: My Hormonal and Social Transformation from Female to Male

Max Wolf Valerio
Seal Press, 2006

By Dale Smith

If it's true, as Arianna Huffington mused on that episode of The L-Word, that dykes are the new fags, then perhaps trans is the new lesbian. Or something like that. It can't be denied that in the past couple of years, trans awareness has become an increasing issue in the queer community and we're learning more about the "T" in GLBT.

I won't sugar-coat it, however, when I find some of the trans awareness issues a little daunting, especially when you get the academic ones who are trying to deconstruct notions of gender so completely that they want to completely eliminate gendered pronouns and would rather us all use words like "hir" and "ze" rather than continuing to enforce our system of binary and oppositional gender. So imagine my surprise when I started in on the prologue of Max Wolf Valerio's The Testosterone Files that Valerio asserted that there would be none of that. If nothing else, Valerio reasserts the very basic structures of male and female as he began his transformative journey from Anita, a lesbian, to Maximilian, a heterosexual man.

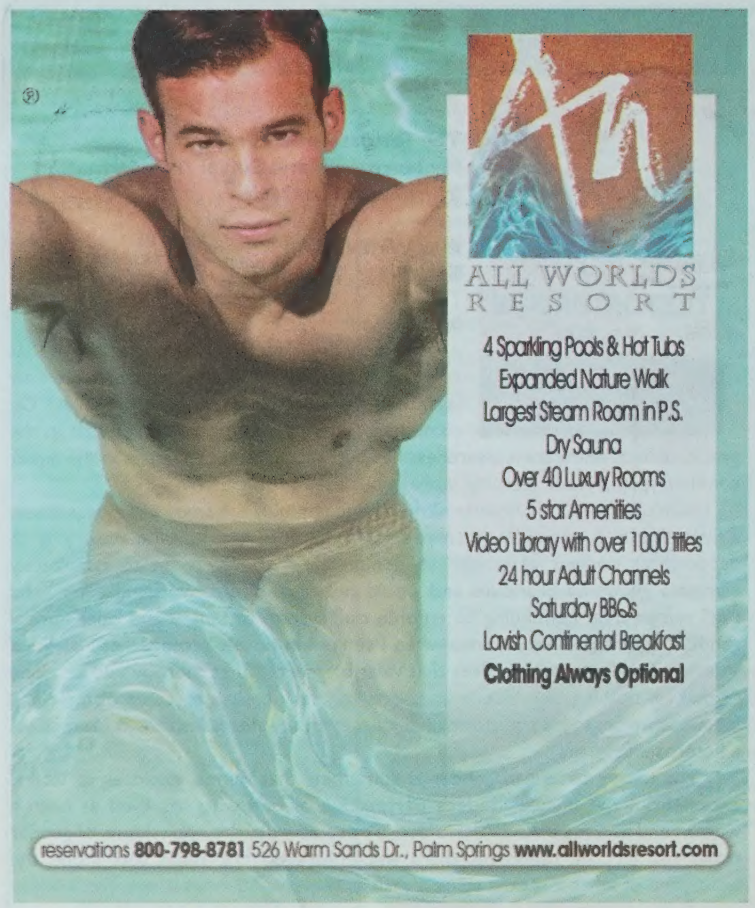
The binary nature of gender is something that Valerio explores to its full extent from the unique insider's perspective of one who has lived as both a woman and as a man. And Valerio doesn't deconstruct the oppositions of gender either—in fact, he reinforces them wholeheartedly and really gets inside the headspace of what it means to be a man as opposed to what it was like living as a woman.

The catalyst for this transformation was not surgery, but hormones. In fact, the book takes place during the first six years of Valerio's transformation—before any surgery had taken place—and all of the changes he experienced were simply as a result of his testosterone injections. And it was entirely the catalyst, hence the title of the book and its subtitle: My hormonal and social transformation from female to male. The hormones didn't just affect physical changes, from increasing muscle density, to body hair erupting, to a deepening of the voice. The hormones so profoundly affected thoughts and emotions that it really starts to put stock into the school of thought that men behave the way they do not because they're socialised to do so—but because that's what the testosterone in their bodies makes them do.

Reading Valerio's accounts of his transformation, of his awareness that he was starting to see the world through the eyes of a man and not a woman—and how different those perceptions were—was one of the most fascinating things about the book. To get what is essentially a second puberty through the eyes of an outsider makes us ponder our own adolescence, and appreciate all of the things that we took for granted, as well as make us thankful that we were at an emotional level where we could deal with that state of flux. Perhaps the most intriguing part was Valerio's awareness of his sex drive once the hormones kicked in, and his descriptions how sex means different things to men and women in a way that no other could dare to attempt telling.

Overall, the book was written as a first-hand account and not as a thesis or a dry academic discussion on the nature of the transformation, or to give us any kind of background on the testosterone itself. While we do gain some insight into the world of a female-to-male transsexual, we gain better insight into what it means to be a man in a style that is clear, and poetic in places. It's certainly a read that will make one ponder the very foundations of the nature-versus-nurture debate in the battle of the sexes. ▼

Dale Smith is a freelance writer who lives in Ottawa. His work also regularly appears in Capital Xtra and Ottawa Xpress, and he has previously written for XY Magazine.



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Gay & Lesbian Community Service Association

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Illusions: for the Trans Community
1st Friday 7 - 10 pm

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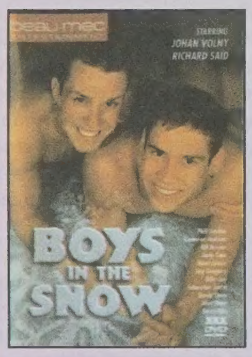
Boys in the Snow

From: Beau Mec Entertainment



FEATURING: Phill Sardou, Johan Volny, Richard Said, Cameron Jackson, Billy Jay, Bill Brown, Andy Cole, Karel Gross, Jay Gregory, Sebastian Smith, David Dave, Alex Duno, Rocco Ulm

RUNNING TIME: 110 minutes

This is a love story about the first time Phill Sardou falls in love with a man. The object of his affections is Johan Volny. It all happens when Phill is running a small hotel in the mountains for his father. Phill's good friend, Johan, is there to help with the chores. During their first year working together, their relationship develops beyond a friendship. It appears to be a natural evolution for two horny young men working hard and playing hard together in the isolation high up in the mountains.

One day, they are relaxing together in front of a log fire when the heat from the flames stirs the passions within these two young studs. Johan is immediately impressed by Phill's perfect, muscular physique. When he discovers Phill's massive endowment, he is fully aroused. At the same time, Phill is enamored with Johan's perfect gymnast's body and the two bond together for what seems to be forever. Their life together is a perfect mix of work, play and sex in the idyllic mountain setting away from the worldly pressures below. A perfect romance in a perfect world—and these two lovers become inseparable.

Then one day when Johan is out driving Phill's car, the icy roads cause an accident. Although the car is a total wreck, Johan escapes unharmed. He is confused, in a state of shock and afraid to tell Phill what has happened. Johan decides to run away from the unpleasant situation.

When Phill discovers what has happened, he is inconsolable over the loss of his lover. Phill turns to drinking and has great difficulty dealing with his daily work and running the hotel. He doesn't want to see anyone and doesn't care about the hotel guests. His life is suddenly miserable—he can't live without Johan by his side.

Despite being surrounded by cute young men working in the woods and visiting the hotel, nothing can totally take Phill's mind off Johan and the great sex they had together. Then one day, photographer Billy Jay arrives at the hotel with several young male models that are to be photographed around the hotel. Billy knows how to pick the models that are all hot for some action and happy to strip for the camera—anywhere else when the occasion arises.

In front of the camera, one hot scene follows another—especially when Cameron is posing and decides that Billy should be naked. These two well-hung studs forget the photo shoot and enjoy their own passions before any pictures are taken. Billy reveals a huge ten inches that Cameron equals with his own impressive manhood. Truly impressed with each other's attributes neither photographer or model is shy and the perfect bodies seem to be made for each other. Something stirs in Phill's mind as these young men are all over the hotel strutting their stuff on and off camera. Inevitably, one young man catches Phil's attention and Richard Said manages to stir something elsewhere in Phil's body as the sexual tension mounts between these two men. When Phill visits Richard's bedroom he is invited to join Richard's meditation session. The rest is history as passion overtakes reason. They fall in love instantly and begin to start another hilltop romance where everything seems perfect and time stands still. It all changes, however, when Phill's haunting past catches up with him one more time.

RATING:
(OUT OF FIVE STARS)

MUSIC:	★★★★★
BODIES:	★★★★★
ACTION:	★★★★★
SETS:	★★★★
STORY:	★★★

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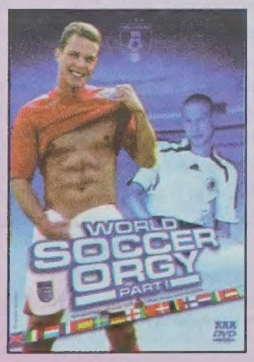
World Soccer Orgy

From: Eurocreme



FEATURING: Cameron Jackman, Johan Volny, Will Jamieson, Jak Williams, Jay Renfro, David Owen, Thomas Dyk, Johny Hunter, David Darge, Sebastion Stone, Carey Lexes, Michael Shade, Patrik Dorsy, Richard Said, Alan Capler, Denis Taylor, Collin Richardson, Tom Arnott, Tim Taillor, Mr. Rush, Claudio Bell, Kamil Fox, Bud Fraser, Romek Byrne, Alex Stevan, Billy Jay, Brice Farmer, Jay Gregory, Max Fonda, Tony Koch, Goran Drago, Ronnie Badell, Joe Kean

RUNNING TIME: 110 Minutes

He dribbles—He shoots—He scores! Those were the words on every sportscaster's lips at the recent World Cup Soccer championships, which were broadcast on worldwide television and in every paper globally. Behind the scenes, working for a British tabloid newspaper, one gay photojournalist was sent to cover the off-field action that all the other reporters missed. Cameron Jackson was sent with a powerful zoom lens for his camera to the locker rooms, hotel rooms, on the buses and behind the scenes where these hot, sweaty athletes thought they were in private places. These post-competition gatherings were supposed to be for the horny athletes only and none of them suspected the presence of an intruder.

Everything began at training camp leading up to the competitions. Here, the players got to know one another and learn how to perform like a team. What a scandal when, at the stadium, Cameron discovered a threesome engaged in sex on the bench after a practice session. The tabloid headline read, *International Shagging at the Soccer Stadium* and the player's secrets were revealed for everyone back home to read.

The American team was training in the German mountains where jogging on the rocky trails led to a minor injury for one team member. His training partner was eager to assist with a massage, which led to extra rubbing in the *wrong place*, which Cameron caught on camera. The next headline read *Injured But Still Horny—What An American Beauty*. These hot-blooded young Americans had to face the music back home; "Oh, Say Can You See" meant the fans saw more than they should have!

As Cameron followed the teams throughout the contest, more headlines included *An English Massage... Sensational*, for the French team it was *The French Team Has Reared Its Head...and it's Sex On The Bus*", the Germans had to suffer with *The English Are On Top Of The Germans*, and with each headline there was a scene which Cameron captures for posterity, as the viewer experiences athletic passions. It's the one time when tabloid sensationalism can have some redeeming qualities!

This soccer extravaganza brings together some of the hottest studs from England, Germany, France and the Czech republic for an exciting new release with hot action on and off the soccer field. It's amazing how many players score in just under two hours of rigorous games.

RATING:
(OUT OF FIVE STARS)

MUSIC:	★★★★★
BODIES:	★★★★★
ACTION:	★★★★★½
SETS:	★★★★★
STORY:	★★★★★

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Friendship & Relationship:
I'm a gay white male, 40 years old. I live in Valleyview. I have brown hair and blue eyes. I'm 6'1", 220lb and I have various interests. I'm romantic at heart, easy-going. I'm looking for my soul mate.

Casual Encounters:
I'm a hot, good-looking guy, new to Calgary. I'm 6'4", 205lb, 7 1/2", thick, uncut, tattoos, got pierced nipples, shoulder length brown hair, clean-shaven, smooth body. I'm looking for a well-endowed hairy top.

Bears & Big Men:
Horny 44 year old bear, 5'8", 220lb, brown hair, blue eyes, moustache, moderately hairy. I've got a very fat 7 1/2" cock. I'm versatile, friendly, easy-going and looking for guys between 18-45, slim and easy-going.

Something Wild:
I'm 27, a submissive bottom, looking for an older dominant top master to serve. I'm very inexperienced but open-minded. I'm 6'1", 170lb. I have blond hair, blue eyes, 6" cut, and looking to serve, be trained and get kinky.

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